



# Forest Service Centennial

## Snapshot

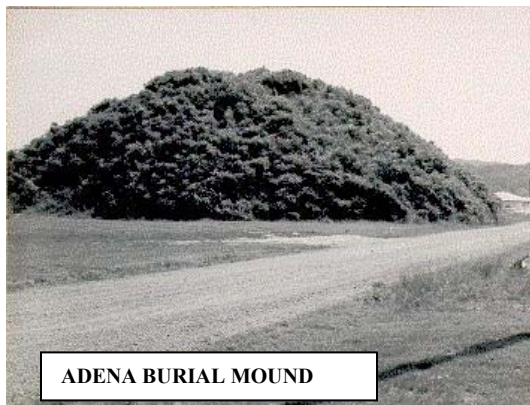
### *A time to celebrate*

**Wayne National Forest** - US Forest Service

### **Prehistory - The First Ohioan People**

The Palaeo-Indians were the first humans to reach the Ohio territory approximately 12,000 years ago. They were nomadic peoples who hunted large game such as the mastodon, elk, and caribou that migrated into Ohio as the glacier retreated northward. As the climate got warmer, the Ohio environment became more diverse. Consequently, the Archaic peoples (ca. 8,000 - 1,000 B.C.) were able to eat a broader variety of plant and animal species. Late within this period, we see the beginnings of horticulture and burial rituals.

The Woodland Period (ca. 1,000 B.C. - A.D. 1,200) is characterized by more stationary lifestyles that allowed the development of agriculture, the manufacture of ceramics, and elaborate burial practices.



ADENA BURIAL MOUND

Burial of the dead in constructed earthen mounds was common in Early (Adena) and Middle (Hopewell) Woodland times. The Hopewell people established extensive trade networks across the country to obtain raw materials to fashion exotic items to bury with their dead. Grave goods were made out of copper from Lake Superior, mica from North Carolina and Tennessee, silver from Canada,

obsidian from Wyoming, and marine shell from the Gulf of Mexico. The Late Woodland people, probably the descendants of Middle Woodland groups, discontinued their ancestors' mound-building and extensive trading activities. However, the Late Woodland people appear to have been more successful at growing crops, and lived in larger communities than the earlier groups.

The late prehistoric Fort Ancient people (ca. 1,000 - A.D. 1,650) lived in large floodplain villages often organized around central plazas as well as upland hunting camps. Mortuary practices were not as complex as those of the Hopewell, and they became more dependent on maize agriculture than on hunting and gathering.

Southeastern Ohio was apparently abandoned in very late prehistoric times. The people either moved away to avoid conflicts with tribes farther east that wanted control over fur trade with Europeans on the East Coast, or they succumbed to diseases that originated in the European colonies and were passed from one Indian settlement to another.

Prior to European contact, southeastern Ohio had no permanently settled native groups. Historic Native American tribes such as the Shawnee, Wyandotte, and Delaware lived and hunted extensively in southeastern Ohio in far-ranging nomadic groups instead of large villages. Their primary settlements appear to have been farther west in the Scioto and Miami River valleys.

### **Forest Fact**

The 236,500 acre Wayne National Forest is one of 155 national forests.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Wheelin' Sportsman Event at Lake Vesuvius on April 8, 2005
- National River Cleanup Day is May 14<sup>th</sup> on the Little Muskingum River.

### **Check out our Websites**

[www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne)  
[www.fs.fed.us/centennial](http://www.fs.fed.us/centennial)

### **For more information**

Contact Ann Cramer: 740.753.0553